

DES Tribal Briefing

Date: October 2, 2013

Time: 1:30pm – 3:30pm

Meeting Summary

Location: 1717 West Jefferson, Phoenix

Summary:

The purpose of the Tribal Briefing is to start the process of building government-to-government relations between DES and Arizona's American Indian Nations and Tribes. Leadership from the 22 Arizona Tribes were invited to attend. This event marks the first of its kind between DES and the Tribes in several years. Director Carter provided an overview of DES, how it is structured and its programs, as well as the Department's efforts to reinvent Arizona's safety net system. Mary Huyser discussed her role as DES Tribal Relations Liaison, provided a directory of the tribal liaisons within each program division and showed a new DES webpage under development that will focus on providing pertinent information to the tribes. Attendees shared their ideas, concerns and comments. Director Carter explained that he will take all comments and concerns into consideration and assured attendees that he will continue dialog and follow up with their concerns. Mary also talked about the DES Tribal Consultation policy and invited the leaders to contribute in updating this policy. A workgroup was created from this conversation and a few representatives signed up to participate. Overall, it was agreed that the Tribal Briefings will be a joint effort between the Tribes, the Director, and the DES Tribal Relations Liaison to maintain ongoing communication.

List of Tribal Representatives and DES Staff in Attendance:

- ❖ Hualapai Tribe – Jonell Tapija, Case Worker, Tribal Social Services
- ❖ Hualapai Tribe – Lucille Watahomigie, Director of Training & Education Center
- ❖ Navajo Nation – Regina Yazzie, Director of Children & Family Services
- ❖ Pascua Yaqui Tribe – Cruzita Armenta, Council Member
- ❖ Pascua Yaqui Tribe – Maria Paisano, Director
- ❖ Pascua Yaqui Tribe – Tamara Walters, ICWA Attorney
- ❖ Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community – Kristen Evan-Hardy, Director Tribal Social Services
- ❖ Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community – Lena Jackson, Assistant Community Manager
- ❖ San Carlos Apache Tribe – Terry Ross, Director Tribal Social Services
- ❖ Tohono O'odham – Wavalene M. Romero, Vice Chairwoman
- ❖ White Mountain Apache Tribe – Colleen Faden, Director Tribal Social Services
- ❖ Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. – Verna Johnson, Human Services Specialist
- ❖ Clarence H. Carter, DES Director
- ❖ Sharon Sergent, Deputy Director of Programs
- ❖ Melanie Starns, DAAS Assistant Director
- ❖ Molly Bright, Strategic Partnership Director
- ❖ Tasya Peterson, Director of Communications
- ❖ Mary Huyser, DES Tribal Relations Liaison
- ❖ Kim Skrentny, Special Assistant to Director Carter
- ❖ Bryan Pahia, Public Information Officer
- ❖ Jennifer Janicki, Executive Staff Assistant to Sharon Sergent
- ❖ Michelle Fleming, Tribal Relations Administrative Assistant